

What is claimed is:

1. A method utilizing a team of network interfaces operating in adapter fault tolerance mode to provide primary and secondary use processing of data,

comprising:

5 receiving data for processing by said team, said team having a primary network interface and at least one secondary network interface;

if said data is primary use processing, then processing and transmitting said data by the primary network interface; and

10 if said data is secondary use processing, then distributing processing of said data across said secondary network interfaces.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

15 loading a driver for the team of network interfaces, said driver configuring said team to operate in adapter fault tolerance mode and designating the primary network interface and the at least one secondary network interface;

wherein said distributing processing is according to a workload of said secondary network interfaces.

20 3. The method of claim 1, where if said primary network interface has available processing bandwidth, then distributing processing of said data across all network interfaces of said team.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said distributing processing is according to a workload of each of said team of network interfaces.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein processing said data includes  
5 encrypting said data according to IPSEC.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

10 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving data for secondary use processing from an application  
programming interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said  
team.

15 8. A readable medium having encoded thereon instructions for  
utilizing a team of network interfaces operating in adapter fault tolerance mode to  
provide primary and secondary use processing of data by directing a processor to:

receive data for processing by said team, said team having a primary  
network interface and at least one secondary network interface;

20 if said data is primary use processing, then process and transmit said data  
by the primary network interface; and

if said data is secondary use processing, then distribute processing of said  
data across said secondary network interfaces.

9. The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

load a driver for a team of network interfaces to configure said team to  
5 operate in adapter fault tolerance mode and designate the primary network interface  
and the at least one secondary network interface; and

distribute processing according to a workload of said secondary network  
interfaces.

10. The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

determine if said primary network interface has available processing  
bandwidth, and if so, distribute processing of said data across all network interfaces of  
said team.

11. The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

distribute processing of said data according to a workload of each of said  
team of network interfaces.

12. The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to:

direct the processor to encrypt said data according to IPSEC.

13. The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to:

5 direct the processor to receive data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

14. The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

10 receive data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

15 15. A method for utilizing a team of network interfaces operating in adaptive load balancing mode to provide primary and secondary use processing of data, comprising:

identifying active and failed network interfaces of said team;

receiving data for processing and transmission by said team;

if said data is primary use processing, then distributing processing of said data across said active network interfaces of said team; and

20 if said data is secondary use processing, then distributing processing of said data across all active and failed network interfaces of said team.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

loading a driver for said team, said driver configuring said team to operate in the adaptive load balancing mode and appear to be a single network interface.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

5 receiving, by a first one of said team of network interfaces, a portion of said received data for processing;

identifying a processing mode required for processing said portion;

determining if said first one supports the processing mode; and

10 if not, then submitting processing of said portion to a second one of said team of network interfaces.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

installing said team of network interfaces in a computing device having an operating system; and

15 receiving data for secondary use processing from said operating system.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein an application programming interface is configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

20. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

20 installing said team of network interfaces in a computing device having an operating system; and

receiving data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

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21. A readable medium having encoded thereon instructions for utilizing a team of network interfaces operating in adaptive load balancing mode to provide primary and secondary use processing of data by directing a processor to:

identify active and failed network interfaces of said team;

receive data for processing and transmission by said team;

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determine if said data is primary use processing, and if so, then distribute processing of said data across said active network interfaces of said team; and

determine if said data is secondary use processing, and if so, then distribute processing of said data across all active and failed network interfaces of said team.

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22. The medium of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

load a driver for said team, said driver configuring said team to operate in the adaptive load balancing mode and appear to be a single network interface.

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23. The medium of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

receive a portion of said received data for processing by a first one of said team of network interfaces;

identify a processing mode required for processing said portion;

determine if said first one supports the processing mode; and

5 submit processing of said portion to a second one of said team of network interfaces.

24. The method of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

10 receive data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

25. The method of claim 21, said instructions including further instructions to direct the processor to:

15 receive data for secondary use processing from an application programming interface is configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.